

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 15, 1981

POLAND: Solidarity's Quest for Support

Solidarity's national leadership is having difficulty gaining support for its appeals earlier this week for an end to protests and for extra work on Saturdays. [REDACTED]

Some organizers apparently are planning to hold rallies instead of marches to Warsaw next week in support of political prisoners, although others reportedly are still proceeding with their original plans. A Solidarity official told [REDACTED] that virtually all the national union leaders agreed that Solidarity should not support the marches but added that it "would have to get involved" if marchers were blocked by "police or military units." He indicated that the union will make additional efforts to scale down any marches or delay them. [REDACTED]

The entire national leadership of Solidarity will journey to Katowice on Monday--the day the marches might begin--to try to win support from disgruntled coal miners, who have rejected appeals to work eight extra Saturdays by the end of the year. To help win them over, union leaders are saying that workers must have a major voice in production and distribution decisions on the extra Saturdays. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, the hierarchy of the Catholic Church issued a statement on Thursday supporting Solidarity's demand for greater access to the media and for "true workers' self-management." Although it also appealed for "decisive opposition" to political struggle, the Church did not call for suspension of the marches. Archbishop Glemp could specifically address this subject in his sermon today. [REDACTED]

A TASS announcement stated that party leader Kania and Prime Minister Jaruzelski met with President Brezhnev, Foreign Minister Grozyko, Politburo member Chernenko, and party secretary Rusaakov in the Crimea yesterday. It did not characterize the talks but indicated that an "agreed upon" communique will be issued today. [REDACTED]

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Food Supplies

In an important concession to the regime, Solidarity has agreed to a government proposal for a large increase in the price of bread. The union apparently agrees that the low retail price of bread has led to its increasing purchase for fodder, with consequent shortages for consumers. Solidarity also has insisted on full wage compensation, which will be based on the findings of a joint government-union working group that will meet next week.

[REDACTED] The government also has banned private sales of meat because farmers found it far more profitable to sell meat on the black market. As a result, state procurement fell by 22 percent in January-June below the level of a year ago, forcing the cut of 15 to 20 percent in meat rations for August that set off the recent food protests. [REDACTED]

When State purchases slumped even further in the first 10 days of this month, strong measures were required. Their enforcement, however, will require a degree of farmer and Rural Solidarity cooperation that may be hard to get. [REDACTED]

Military Activity

There has been no confirmation of information that as many as six Polish divisions--mainly in the Silesian Military District--were at an increased readiness status last Monday.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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In Moscow, Soviet officials yesterday formally announced the large General Staff - directed exercise expected to be held between 4 and 12 September in the Belorussian and Baltic Military Districts and the Baltic Sea. They told [REDACTED] that Western observers to the exercise could be invited later. [REDACTED]

No reference was made to the number of troops involved in the exercise, but components of up to 10 Soviet ground force divisions, three airborne divisions, some 80 ships and submarines, and air force units from throughout the USSR may participate. Soviet military staff personnel in East Germany and Poland also may be involved.

[REDACTED]